

In the Claims:

Claims 1-52 (canceled).

53. (currently amended) A method of processing laundry which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) washing a first load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash vessel to produce a first clean load of laundry and a first wash effluent;
 - (b) passing the first wash effluent through at least one wash filter, producing a first wash permeate and a first wash retentate and allowing the first wash permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a wash loop; and
 - (c) rinsing the first clean load of laundry to produce a first rinsed load of laundry and a first rinse effluent, passing at least a portion of the first rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter to produce a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate, and allowing at least a portion of the first rinse effluent permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a rinse loop, the rinse loop being an independent flow path from the wash loop.
54. (original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
 - (d) washing a second load of laundry using in part at least a portion of the first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a second clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;
 - (e) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate; and
 - (f) rinsing the second clean load of laundry to produce a second rinsed load of laundry and a second rinse effluent.

Claim 55 (canceled).

56. (original) The method of claim 54 which further comprises the step of:
 - (g) passing at least a portion of the second rinse effluent through the at least one rinse filter to produce a second rinse permeate and a second rinse retentate.
57. (original) The method of Claim 54 wherein Step (f) is accomplished in part by using at least a portion of the first rinse permeate.
58. (currently amended) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
 - (d) ~~passing the first rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate;~~
 - (e)(d) washing a second load of laundry with the detergent and at least a portion of the first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a second clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;

- (f)(e) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate;
 - (g)(f) rinsing the second clean load of laundry with in part at least a portion of the first rinse permeate to produce a second rinsed load of laundry and a second rinse effluent; and
 - (h)(g) passing the second rinse effluent through the at least one rinse filter to produce a second rinse permeate and a second rinse retentate.
- 59. (original) The method of Claim 54 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the washing in Step (d) is accomplished with first wash permeate.
- 60. (original) The method of Claim 57 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the rinsing in Step (f) is accomplished with first rinse permeate.
- 61. (currently amended) The method of Claim 58 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the washing in Step (e)(d) is accomplished with first wash permeate and between about 30% and about 90% of the rinsing in Step (g)(f) is accomplished with first rinse permeate.
- 62. (currently amended) The method of Claim 5553 which further comprises the step of:
 - (e)(d) transferring at least a portion of the first rinse retentate to the first wash effluent.
- 63. (original) The method of Claim 56 which further comprises the step of:
 - (h) transferring at least a portion of the second rinse retentate to the second wash effluent.
- 64. (currently amended) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the step of repeating Steps (e)-(h)(a)-(c) at least once on additional loads of laundry.
- 65. (original) The method of Claim 64 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry are processed.
- 66. (original) The method of Claim 53 wherein the method is steady state.
- 67. (original) The method of Claim 64 wherein the method is steady state.
- 68. (currently amended) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
 - (d) ~~passing a previous rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a previous rinse permeate and a previous rinse retentate;~~
 - (e)(d) washing a subsequent load of laundry with the detergent and in part at least a portion of a first or previous wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a subsequent clean load of laundry and a subsequent wash effluent;
 - (f)(e) passing the subsequent wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a subsequent wash permeate and a subsequent wash retentate; and
 - (g)(f) rinsing the subsequent clean load of laundry with in part at least a portion of the previous rinse permeate to produce a subsequent rinsed load of laundry and a subsequent rinse effluent;
 - (h)(g) repeating Steps (d)-(g)(f) at least once;

wherein the previous rinse effluent is the second rinse effluent prior to Step (h) and the previous wash permeate is the first wash permeate prior to Step (h)(g).
- 69. (original) The method of Claim 66 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry are processed.
- 70. (original) The method of Claim 68 wherein the method is steady state.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, which further comprises establishing a flow path between the rinse effluent and the wash effluent and allowing a portion of the rinse effluent to be transferred to the wash effluent.
72. (previously presented) A method of processing laundry which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) washing a first load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash vessel to produce a clean load of laundry and a wash effluent;
 - (b) passing the wash effluent through at least one wash filter, producing a wash permeate and a wash retentate and allowing the wash permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a wash loop;
 - (c) rinsing the clean load of laundry to produce a rinsed load of laundry and a rinse effluent, and
 - (d) passing the rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a rinse permeate and a rinse retentate, and allowing the rinse permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a rinse loop, the rinse loop being an independent flow path from the wash loop.
73. (previously presented) The method of claim 72, which further comprises establishing a flow path between the rinse effluent and the wash effluent and allowing a portion of the rinse effluent to be transferred to the wash effluent.